

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
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R 031302Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
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INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
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E. O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PDIP, IN, VN  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER TO INDIA

REF: (A) DELHI 3173; (B) DELHI 3193

SUMMARY: VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG WAS  
WARMLY RECEIVED IN INDIA DURING HIS FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 2  
VISIT. HE LAVISHLY PRAISED THE INDIANS FOR THEIR  
PAST SUPPORT AND CURRENT ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM AND TO ALL  
APPEARANCES PUSHED THE INDIANS FOR FURTHER COMMITMENTS.  
THE INDIANS WERE EQUALLY EFFUSIVE ABOUT VIETNAM'S  
REUNIFICATION AND CURRENT EFFORTS AT RECONSTRUCTION.  
FOUR AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED, ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH,  
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TRADE, CREDIT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; INDIA ALSO  
OFFERED A LOAN OF 300,000 TONS OF WHEAT (REFTELS).  
IN HIS PUBLIC REMARKS DONG STRESSED VIETNAM'S DESIRE FOR  
IMPROVED RELATIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND WITH ALL FRIENDLY  
COUNTRIES AND UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NON-ALIGNED  
MOVEMENT. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE, HE CALLED RELATIONS WITH  
CHINA GOOD AND THE PROSPECTS FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS

WITH THE US AS "DEVELOPING". THE OFFICIAL TALKS COVERED BILATERAL COOPERATION AND THE USUAL INTERNATIONAL TOUR D'HORIZON. WE EXPECT TO SEE MEA CONTACTS NEXT WEEK FOR AN OFFICIAL READING ON THE VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG VISITED INDIA FEBRUARY 24-MARCH 2. DURING HIS THREE DAYS IN NEW DELHI, DONG HAD THE NOW-STANDARD VIP PROGRAM OF PRIVATE SESSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER DESAI AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE, TWO ROUNDS OF OFFICIAL TALKS, A SPEECH TO THE INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, AND A CIVIC RECEPTION AT THE RED FORT. DONG THEN WENT TO BOMBAY WHERE HE VISITED A PETROLEUM REFINERY, THE BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER AND THE DOCKS, AND TO MADRAS WHERE HE VISITED A RAILWAY COAKH FACTORY AND A HEAVY VEHICLE FACTORY.

2. IN HIS PUBLIC REMARKS, PHAN VAN DONG EMPHASIZED SEVERAL THEMES: (A) INDIA AND VIETNAM'S "PROFOUND FRIENDSHIP" ROOTED IN THEIR "GLORIOUS STRUGGLES" FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE; (B) THE SRV'S WARM GRATITUDE FOR INDIA'S CONSISTENT SUPPORT DURING VIETNAM'S "WAR OF RESISTANCE AGAINST IMPERIALIST AGGRESSORS" AND FOR INDIA'S CURRENT "PRECIOUS" ASSISTANCE; (C) VIETNAM'S RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS; (D) ITS DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN NEIGHBORS AND ALL FRIENDLY COUNTRIES; AND (E) THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT IF THE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S COUNTRIES ARE TO OBTAIN TRUE INDEPEFDENCE AFD EKONOMIC DEVELOPMZNT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN HIS SPEECH TO THE PARLIAMENTARIANS, DONG SPOKE IN GENERAL TERMS. HE DID NOT FEFER TO THE UNITED STATES BY NAME, BUT SPOKE OF THE "VICTORY OF IRON WILL" OVER "AN AGGRESSOR WHO WAS THEN CONSIDERED INVINCIBLE." ASIDE FROM THE RIGUEUR REFERENCES TO THE PALESTINIANS AND THE SOUTHERN AFRICANS, VIETNAM SINGLED OUT ONLY CAMBODAI FOR SPECIFIC MENTION, EXPLAINING VIETNAM'S PROPOSAL FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT AND EXPRESSING THE DEEP CONVICTION THAT IN THE EFD JUSTICE AND THE GENUINE GRIENDSHIP OF THE TWO PEOPLES WOULD PREVAIL. ALTHOUGH EMPHASIZING THE NON-ALIGNED AND VIETNAM'S DESIRE FOR EXPANDED RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, DONG GAVE PRIDE OF PLACE TO ESTABLISHING COOPERATION WITH " ALL FRATERNAL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" AND ALSO SAID THAT NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES MUST ELICIT NOT ONLY MASS SUPPORTDOMESTICALLY BUT ALSO "MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO EXPAND ALLIANCES WITH PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN THE WORLD".

3. MORARJI DESAI WAS EQUALLY EFFUSIVE IN HIS REMARKS ABOUT VIETNAM. IN HIS BANQUET SPEEKH, DESAI SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND RECONSTRUCTION HAD TOUCHED A "SYMPATHETIC CHORD IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE OF

INDIA" BECAUSE OF SHARED ASPIRATIONS FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPEFDENCE. IN HIS BANQUET TOAST HE SAID THAT VIETNAM'S NEEDS WERE GREAT BECAUSE OF ITS WAR-RAVAGED ECONOMY AND THE REMAINS OF "SENSELESS DESTRUCTION" AND THEREFORE INDIAFS "STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST JOIN HANDS" WITH VIETNAM IN ITS QUEST FOR DEVELOPMENT. REFERRING TO SUCH ASSISTANCE IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AT THE PARLIAMENTARY MEETING, DESAI SAID THAT IT WAS "THE MORAL OBLIGATION OF ALL PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE TO EXTEND UFASKED ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM". MORARJI IN HIS REMARKS, HOWEVER, ALSO POINTED AT TIMES TO THE FACT THAT INDIA AND VIETNAM HAD CHOSEN DIFFERENT PATHS TO DEVELOPMENT. IN HIS RED FORT REMARKS HE TALKED ABOUT THE TRADITION OF UNITY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIVERSITY IN INDIA, AND SAID THAT "INSTINCTIVELY, WE REJECT FORCE AND COMPULSION AND ANY ATTEMPT AT IMPOSITION OF DOMINANCE OR EVEN AT CREATING ARTIFICIAL CONFORMITY."

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4. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 25, PHAN VAN DONG ANSWERED QUESTIONS OF THE US, CHINA, CAMBODIA, ASEA, AND INDIA'S NUCLEAR POLICY. ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH THE US, DONG SAID THAT THE "SITUATION IS DEVELOPING". HE ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT EFFORTS TO GET THE US TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS FOR RECONSTRUCTION AID WOULD CONTINUE AND WERE "ADVANCING GRADUALLY TO A BETTER POSITION". VIETNAM'S RELATIONS WITH CHINA, HE SAID, WERE GOOD IN THE PAST, ARE GOOD AT PRESENT AND WILL BE GOOD IN THE FUTURE. VIETNAM IS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH THE ASEAN COUNTRIES AND PROSPECTS ARE GOOD, HE SAID. HE REPEATED THE SRV'S DESIRE FOR PEACE WITH CAMBODIA AND DENIED THAT ANY VIETNAMESE TROOPS WERE FIGHTING IN CAMBODIA; THEY WERE DEFENDING VIETNAM'S BORDERS.  
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HE ALSO SAID THAT INDIA'S NUCLEAR POLICY WAS A CORRECT ONE AND DESERVED TO BE SUPPORTED.

5. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, ECONOMIC AND TEKHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN THE OFFICIAL TALKS, WITH DESAI REITERATING THE STANDARD INDIAF POSITION OF DE-SIRINGHTOHELPVIETNAM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITHIN INDIA'S LIMITED CAPABILITIES. PRESS ATTENTION WAS SEIZED BY THE GOI'S AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE THE VIETNAMESE WITH NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE, IN TRAINING SCIENTISTS AND GIVING OTHER ASSISTANCE "WITHIN THE TERMS OF INDIA'S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS". THIS LED ONE EDITORIALIST TO CONCLUDE THAT VIETNAM PREFERRED INDIA'S COOPERATION TO THAT OF THE SOVIETS BECAUSE THE SRV RECOGNIZES THAT THE NUCLEAR DEVELOPED STATES DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THAT THE LDC'S MUST RELY UPON EAKH OTHER. "HINDU" CORRESPONDENT G.K. REDDY, HOWEVER, SAID THAT REPORTS ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION WERE MISLEADING AND THAT THE ASSISTANCE WOULD BE CONFINED TO TRAINING VIETNAMESE SKIENTISTS AT BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS WHERE MANY FOREIGN STRUDENTS ARE ALREADY STUDYING. REDDY , WHO HAS EXCELLENT GOVERNMEFT CONTACTS, ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE GOI HAS NO INTENTION OF SUPPLYING MATERIAL OR TRANSFERRING TECHNOLOGY TO THIRD COUNTRIES EVEF FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES UNTIL RELIABLE INTERNATIONAL NORMS ARE ESTABLISHED.

6. REDDY, WHOSE REPORTING ON THE TALKS WAS MORE DETAILED THAN THAT OF OTHER NEWSPAPERS WHICH RELIED ON GENERAL OFFICIAL BRIEFINGS, SAID THAT THE INDIANS HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY PHAN VAN DONG'S POLITICAL PRAGMATISM AND ABSENCE OF A

DOGMATIC APPROACH. AKCORDING TO REDDY, A NOTABLE FEATURE OF THE TALKS WAS DONG'S CANDOR IN EXPLAINING SRV'S ASPIRATIONS AND APPREHENSIONS ABOUT REGIONAL COOPERATION AFTER LONG YEARS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF ISOLATION. DONG REPORTEDLY WAS NOT APPREHENSIVE ABOUT CHINESE DOMINANCE IN THE AREA AND TOLD THE INDIANS THAT HE DID NOT DOUBT THE PRC WAS UNHAPPY OVER THE VIETNAMESE-CAMBODIAN BORDER CONFLICT AND WANTED AN EARLY SETTLEMENT. REDDY AND OTHERS REPORT, HOWEVER, THAT DONG ALSO SPOKE OF THE DESIRABILITY OF NOT PERMITTING OUTSIDE FORCES TO COMPLICATE RELATIONSHIPS IN THE REGION. TOWARD ASEAN, DONG IS SAID TO HAVE INDICATED THAT VIETNAM WAS PREPARING TO DEAL WITH THESE COUNTRIES AS A GROUP, AS WELL AS BILATERALLY, PROVIDED THERE WERE NO MILITARY OVZRTONES TO ASEAN. ON RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, ACCORDING TO REDDY, DONG SAID THAT THERE COULD BE NO NORMALIZATION UNTIL THE US PAYS UP, AND THAT THIS WAS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE FOR THE SRV, NOT SIMPLY A QUESTION OF COMPENSATION.

7. THE CEREMONIAL HIGHPOINT OF THE VISIT WAS THE FORMAL SIGNING OF FOUR AGREEMENTS: A RS. 100 MILLION (\$12.5 MILLION) LOAN AGREEMENT; A TRADE AGREEMENT; AN AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH; AND AN AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN SKIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED ITS AGREEMENT TO "LEND" VIETNAM 300,000 TONS OF WHEAT (REF. A). LASTLY, THE TWO SIDES ALSO APPROVED A CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM. THE TERMS OF THE GOVZRNMEFT LOAN AND THE ACCOMPANYING RS. 300 MILLION (\$37.5. MILLION) KOMMERICAL EXPORT CREDIT AS THEY ARE KNOWN AT THIS TIME ARE REPORTED IN REF. B. IN THE TRADE AGREEMENT,THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AGREED TO EXTEND MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT TO EACH OTHER AND TO SETTLE PAYMENTS IN HARD CURRENCY (THE LATTER IN KEEPING WITH THE GOI'S CURRENT TREND AWAY FROM RUPEE PAYMENT AGREEMENTS, VEN WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES). THE TREATY IS VALID FOR THREE YEARS WITH AUTOMATIC ANNUAL EXTENSIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF NOTICE TO TERMINATE BY EITHER PARTY. INDICATIVE OF INDIA'S STATUS AS AN EXPORTER OF MANUFACTURED GOODS,THE LIST OF INDIAN PRODUCTS SPECIFIED IN THE TREATY INCLUDES: RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK, AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY, PHARMACEUTICALS; ELECTRIC APPLIANCES; ELECTRIC WIRES AND CABLES; PIG IRON\*STEEL AND STEEL PRODUCTS. VIETNAMESE GOODS IDENTIFIED WERE RICE, VEGETABLE OILS, APATITE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND OIL SEEDS.

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8. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED MARCH 2 AS DONG LEFT MADRAS FOR  
COLOMBO OPENED WITH AN EXCHANGE OF WARM FELICITATIONS ON THE  
RESPECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. PRIME MINISTER  
DESAI "HAILED THE SUCCESS OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE  
IN ACHIEVING THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND THE  
REUNIFICATION OF VIETNAM", AND BOTH WELCOMED THE NEW  
SPIRIT OF COOPERATION IN SOUTH ASIA AND AGREED THAT THE  
PEOPLE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA HAD TO ACCELERATE THEIR  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED STANDARD  
NON-ALIGNED POSITIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH  
AFRICA, AND ON THE INDIAN OCEAN HOPED THAT THE GREAT POWERS AND  
MAJOR MARITIME USERS WOULD COOPERATE WITH THE LITTORAL STATES  
TO ACHIEVE THE ZONE OF PEACE, IN PARTICULAR IN HOLDING THE  
PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN.  
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ON THE BORDER CONFLICT, THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS EXPRESSED THE CONFIDENCE THAT "VIETNAM AND KAMPUCHEA WOULD RESOLVE THE PROBLEM PEACEFULLY THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS." SEVERAL PARAGRAPHS WERE DEVOTED TO THE NAM AND TO THE NAM'S DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON STRATEGY FOR THE SSOD SO THAT THE SESSION WOULD PRODUCE CONCRETE RESULTS TOWARD UNIVERSAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT, "WHICH WOULD RELEASE ENORMOUS RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT" AND FREE MANKIND FROM THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR HOLOCUAAT. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE RESULTS OF THE LAST CIEC MEETING. THE BILATERAL ASPECTS OF THE COMMUNIQUE SUMMARIZED THE FOUR AGREEMENTS SIGNED DURING THE VISIT.

9 . PHAM VAN DONG RECEIVED AN EXCELLENT PRESS RECEIPTION WHICH HIGHLIGHTED HIS FREQUENT AND LIVISH EXPRESIONS OF THANKS FOR INDIA'S SUPPORT AND HIS PRESS CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION OF INDO-VEITNAMESE RELATIONS AS BEING AS "PURE AS THE CLOUDLESS SKY." THE INDIAN EXPRESS EVEN REFERRED TO DONG'S "WINSOME SMILE". EDITORIALISTS THOROUGHLY APPROVED OF INDIA'S OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM; SEVERAL, IN FACT, COMPLAINED THAT THE OFFERS WERE TOO LONG IN COMING AND AT TOO LOW A LEVEL. EDITORIALS ALSO NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF VIETNAM IN SOUTH EAST ASIA AND THE CONSEQUENT NECESSITY OF INDIA TO DEVELOP BETTER POLITICAL RELATIONS AS WELL.

10. WE EXPECT TO SEE GOI OFFICIALS NEXT WEEK TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS ON THE VISIT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PDIP, OVIP, IN, VM, (PHAM VAN DONG)  
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